REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are currently pending in the present application. The drawings have been objected to and have been responded to in a submission of proposed drawing amendments filed herewith. The specification has been amended to fix informalities and to more clearly describe Figure 23. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 16 –19, 27, and 28 have been amended. Claim 4 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to fix informalities and to more clearly describe Figure 23. No new matter has been added as a result.

DRAWINGS

The drawings were objected to in the first paragraph of the Office Action for having poor figure legends. Formal drawings have been submitted for figures 1-24. No new matter has been added as a result of providing formal drawings.

CLAIM REJECTIONS
35 U.S.C. §112

In the second paragraph of the Office Action, Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is mostly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The second paragraph of the Office Action, also rejected Claims 1 and 5 for reciting only a single step, Claims 1 and 5 for failing to recite a series of steps that logically amount to the method of grouping entries, and rejected Claims 1-15 for omitting essential steps.

Currently amended independent Claim 1 recites:

A method of sharing information, the method comprising the steps of:

associating a plurality of entries with a directory system that is accessed by an application, wherein the plurality of entries comprises a first entry and a second entry; associating an at least one attribute with the first entry and the second entry; generating a value based on a class of service logic, wherein the value provides information associated with a user of the application; and associating the value with the at least one attribute, whereby the value is shared by the first entry and the second entry in a manner that is transparent to the application.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a series of steps that logically amount to the method of grouping entries. Further, the subject matter of Claim 1 is described on pages 39-44 of the specification. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph has been overcome.

Claims 2-5 depend on Claim 1, which is believed to be allowable for the foregoing rationale. As such, it is respectfully asserted that the rejections of Claims 2-5 have been overcome and their allowance is earnestly solicited.

Currently amended independent Claim 5 recites:

A method of configuring a directory server comprising a plurality of entries, the method comprising the steps of:
defining a class of service (CoS) attribute, wherein the CoS attribute includes a CoS Definition entry and a Template entry;
associating the CoS attribute with a target entry that lies within a CoS scope of the CoS Definition entry and the Template entry; and
providing an attribute value for the target entry based on the CoS Definition entry and the Template entry.

Claim 5 has been amended to recite a series of steps that logically amount to the method of grouping entries. Further, the subject matter of Claim 5 is described on pages 39-44 of the specification. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of Claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph has been overcome.

Claims 6-15 depend on Claim 5, which is believed to be allowable for the foregoing rationale. As such, it is respectfully asserted that the rejections of Claims 6-15 have been overcome and their allowance is earnestly solicited.

CLAIM REJECTIONS
35 U.S.C. §102(a)

In paragraph 3, the Office Action rejected Claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by iPlanet Directory Server Administrator's Guide (Version 5.0, April 2001, Sun Microsystems, Inc., hereafter iPlanet).

Applicants respectfully submit that the inventors of the above-mentioned application conceived and invented the subject matter disclosed in above mentioned reference iPlanet. A declaration attesting to this is being filed concurrently with this response. Accordingly, the features of the above-mentioned application as recited in Claims 1-30 are not anticipated by the above mentioned reference iPlanet and the rejection of Claims 1-30 is overcome.
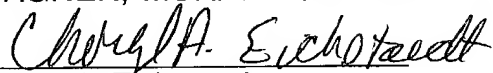
CONCLUSION

In light of the above listed amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejected Claims is requested. Based on the amendments and remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-30 overcome the rejections of record. Therefore, allowance of Claims 1-30 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have a question regarding the instant response, the Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: _Jan 27_, 2004

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